

## CASE PROCESSING STANDARDS ANALYSIS CIVIL - SUPERIOR COURT CASES

### National Center for State Courts Model Time Standards:

75% within 180 days  
90% within 365 days  
98% within 540 days

**Measurement:** Filing of initial complaint through disposition (e.g., dismissal, judgment).

### Arizona Civil - Superior Court Cases

The following standards have been adopted for Superior Court Civil cases:

**60% within 180 days**  
**90% within 365 days**  
**96% within 540 days**

- ✓ Complex cases, such as medical malpractice, will be included as part of the 4% of cases disposed after 540 days.

**Measurement:** Filing of initial complaint through disposition (e.g., dismissal, judgment).

**Excluded Time:** The following may result in a stay of proceedings and the time elapsed will be excluded from measurement: special actions, appeals, bankruptcy, and stays granted pursuant to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
<b>Complaint Filed:</b> Rule 3, Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure (ARCP)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Measurement Starts Here)</b></p> A civil action is commenced by filing a complaint with the court.
<b>Service of Process:</b> Rule 4(i), ARCP  Rule 12(a)(1)(ii), ARCP  Rule 12(a)(1), ARCP	<p><b><u>No Service-Dismissal:</u></b> If a defendant is not served with process within <b>90 days</b> after the complaint is filed, the court—on motion, or on its own after notice to the plaintiff—must dismiss the action without prejudice against that defendant or order that service be made within a specified time.</p> <p><b><u>Waiver of Service:</u></b> A defendant or third-party defendant must file and serve an answer or other responsive pleading if it has timely waived service under Rule 4(f), within <b>60 days</b> after the request for a waiver was sent, or within <b>90 days</b> after it was sent to the defendant or third-party defendant outside any judicial district of the United States.</p> <p><b><u>Service in Arizona:</u></b> A defendant or third-party defendant must file and serve an answer or other responsive pleading within <b>20 days</b> after being served with the summons and complaint, unless the person waived service or was served outside the State of Arizona.</p>

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
Rule 4.2(m), ARCP	<b><u>Out-of-State Service:</u></b> Unless Rule 4.2(d)(3) applies, or the parties agree or the court orders otherwise, a person served outside Arizona under Rule 4.2 must serve a responsive pleading within <b>30 days</b> after the completion of service. Service of a responsive pleading must be made in the same manner, and the served person is subject to the same consequences, as if the person had been personally served with a summons in the county in which the action is pending.
<b>Motions Filed Prior to Answer:</b> Rule 7.1(a), ARCP  Rule 55, ARCP	<b><u>Response and Reply:</u></b> A party opposing a motion shall have <b>10 days</b> after service to file a response. The moving party has <b>5 days</b> to file a reply.  <b><u>Default Judgment:</u></b> The filing of the application for default constitutes the entry of default. A default is effective <b>10 days</b> after the application for entry of default is filed, and the plaintiff may request a default judgment at that time if the party claimed to be in default has not pleaded or otherwise defended within that time period. <b>(Measurement Stops Here)</b> <b>OR</b>
<b>Discovery and Disclosure:</b> Rule 26.1(f)(1), ARCP  Rule 26.1(f)(2), ARCP  Rule 33, ARCP  Rule 26(b)(5), ARCP	<b><u>Disclosure Statements:</u></b> Unless the parties agree or the court orders otherwise, a party seeking affirmative relief must serve its initial disclosure of information under Rule 26.1(a) as fully as then reasonably possible within <b>30 days</b> of the filing of the first responsive pleading to the complaint, counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party complaint.  Parties have a continuing duty to disclose. Disclosures must be timely served (within 30 days) when new or additional information is discovered or revealed.  <b><u>Interrogatories, Request for Production of Documents, and Requests for Admissions:</u></b> Responses to interrogatories and any objections must be served within <b>30 days</b> after being served with the interrogatory. Subject to compliance with Rule 26.1(f)(1) by the party serving discovery, a defendant may serve its answers and any objections within 60 days after service, or waiver of service, of the summons and complaint on that defendant.  <b><u>Non-Parties at Fault:</u></b> No later than <b>150 days</b> after filing its answer, a party must serve on all other parties—and should file with the court—a notice disclosing any person: (A) not currently or formerly named as a party in the action; and (B) whom the party alleges was wholly or partly at fault under the Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) § 12-2506(B).



Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
<p>Rule 76(c), ARCP</p> <p>Rule 76(e), ARCP</p> <p>ARS § 12-3023</p>	<p>arbitrator shall notify the parties of the decision and file a notice of decision with the court.</p> <p><b>(Measurement Stops After Arbitration Award Entered)</b></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>If an award or stipulation for entry of another form of relief is not filed with the court within <b>50 days</b> after the notice of decision is filed, the notice of decision will constitute the arbitrator's award.</p> <p><b><u>Referral to Judge:</u></b> If the arbitrator does not file an award with the clerk within the later of <b>145 days</b> after the arbitrator's appointment or <b>30 days</b> after a noticed hearing, the clerk or the court administrator must refer the matter to the assigned judge for appropriate action.</p> <p><b><u>Vacating Arbitration Award:</u></b> The motion must be filed within <b>90 days</b> of receiving notice of the award.</p>
<p><b>Trial:</b></p> <p>Rule 38.1(b), ARCP</p> <p>Rule 54(c)</p> <p>Rule 38.1(d) ARCP</p>	<p><b><u>Motion to Set and Certificate of Readiness:</u></b> A party seeking postponement of a trial must file a motion setting forth the basis for the request and any supporting evidence. The party must attach a separate statement certifying that the requested postponement is not being sought solely for the purpose of delay and will serve the interests of justice.</p> <p>A judgment as to all claims and parties is not final unless the judgment recites that no further matters remain pending and that the judgment is entered under Rule 54(c).</p> <p><b><u>Dismissal Calendar:</u></b> The clerk or court administrator must place a civil action on the Dismissal Calendar if <b>210 days</b> have passed since the action was commenced, and in an action other an action assigned to arbitration, the parties have not filed a Joint Report and a Proposed Scheduling Order under Rule 16(c), or in an action assigned to arbitration, the arbitrator has not filed a notice of decision under Rule 76.</p> <p>If an action remains on the Dismissal Calendar for <b>60 days</b>, the court must dismiss it without prejudice and enter an appropriate order regarding any bond or other posted security, unless, before the 60-day period expires: (A) the parties file a Joint Report and a Proposed Scheduling Order under Rule 16(c); (B) in an action assigned to arbitration, the arbitrator files a notice of decision under Rule 76; or (C) the court, on motion showing good cause, orders the action to be continued on the Dismissal Calendar for a specified period of time without being dismissed.</p> <p><b>(Measurement Stops Here)</b></p>